

Gallery 1 + 2

Grace Before Jones: Camera, Disco, Studio

26 September 2020 – 3 January 2021

A cross between fan-fiction, study and biography, *Grace Before Jones: Camera, Disco, Studio* explores the life, work and collaborations of the performer and icon Grace Jones. From disco queen to dub cyborg; Jamaican to French; runway model to nightclub performer; black to white; feminine to masculine; Grace Jones embodies many different positions at once, both exemplifying and complicating theories of gender, sexuality, performance, race and cybernetics – discourses that flourished in parallel to her career.

Bringing together more than 100 works by some 50 artists, the exhibition presents a multifaceted portrait through artworks, archival material, film, fashion, design and music. Travelling through time, it offers both a historical background to and contemporary perspective on Grace Jones. Her wide-ranging collaborations sit alongside more recent works from contemporary artists, tracing Grace Jones's expansive influence and legacy.

Unfolding across two galleries, the exhibition is in two parts. The first, 'Right Light', presents the iconic singer's rise to fame and the behind the-scenes construction of her image-making and music. The second,

'Night Sight', looks at her in the spotlight, centre-stage of the glamorous yet turbulent worlds of fashion and nightclubs. A series of subchapters explore the multiplicity of Grace Jones's identity and reflects her wide-ranging influence across art, music and design. This section is choreographed between moments of silence and a club atmosphere, revolving around a setlist of all of Grace Jones's 83 songs (excluding remixes and extras), moving chronologically through her back catalogue.

The exhibition features contributions from artists, designers and musicians including: ACT UP, Derrick Adams, Terry Adkins, Aerographics (Richie Williamson & Dean Jano-), Azzedine Alaïa, El Anatsui, Anthony Barboza, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Richard Bernstein, Alexandra Bircken, The Black Beauty Agency (Betty Forray and Dee Gipson), Paul Bryan, Kim Coleman, Eldzier Cortor, Hans Feurer, Alan Fierstein, Nikita Gale, Ron Galella, Lynn Goldsmith, Jean-Paul Goude, Keith Haring, George Henry-Longly, Peter Hujar, Timothy Hursley, Patrick Kelly, William Klein, Tseng Kwong Chi, Timothy Leary with Retinalogic and Genesis P-Orridge, Antonio Lopez, Robert Mapplethorpe, Catherine McGann, Meryl Meisler, Philippe Morillon, Kayode Ojo, Tina Paul, Anton Perich, Paul Pfeiffer, Julia Phillips, Adrian Piper, Jimmy Robert, Martha Rosler, Paul Mpagi Sepuya, Neal Slavin, Ming Smith, Willi Smith, David Spada, Michele Wallace,

Andy Warhol, Nicole Wermers and Charles White, with material from the Sigma Sound Studio Archives (Drexel University, Philadelphia).

Grace Before Jones: Camera, Disco, Studio is curated by Cédric Fauq with Olivia Aherne.

Exhibition design by Borja Vélez, graphic design by Leandro Pitz.

Accompanying events programme by Sofia Lemos and Ryan Kearney.